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Application No. 10/551,120

Telephonic Interview

Examiner Naishadh Desai

Applicants' representatives David Price and Julianne Smith

February 4, 2009

2:00 pm EST

Possible claim amendments 022862-1065

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (previously presented):

Gear drive unit (10) according to Claim 19, characterized in that the electronic interface (36) features at least a second sealing surface (48) to seal various plug-in modules (34, 82, 94, 110), wherein the at least two sealing surfaces (48, 50) are arranged offset at least partially with respect to the insertion direction (55).

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented):

Gear drive unit (10) according to Claim 19, characterized in that at least one housing part (18) features a recess (46) in the area of the electronic interface (36), into which a printed circuit board (32) of the plug-in module (34, 82, 94, 110) can be inserted tangentially or radially to the armature shaft (16).

Claim 5 (previously presented):

Gear drive unit (10) according to Claim 19, characterized in that the second sealing surface (48) is arranged essentially along the edge of the recess (46).

Claim 6 (previously presented):

Gear drive unit (10) according to Claim 19, characterized in that the first sealing surface (50) is arranged essentially along the edge of the openings (42, 44).

Claim 7 (previously presented):

Gear drive unit (10) according to Claim 19, characterized in that the guides (64) are arranged for pressing one of the seals (88, 60) that is arranged on the plug-in module (34, 94, 110) against the sealing surfaces (50) and/or for mechanically holding on the edge of the axial opening (44).

Claim 8 (previously presented):

Gear drive unit (10) according to Claim 19, characterized in that the walls (38) of the electronic interface (36) is arranged conically in the insertion direction (55).

Claim 9 (previously presented):

Gear drive unit (10) according to Claim 19, characterized in that locking means (68, 70) are arranged on the electronic interface (36) to lock with counter locking means (74, 72) on the plug-in module (34, 82, 94, 110).

Claim 10 (previously presented):

Gear drive unit (10) according to Claim 19, characterized in that the gear drive unit (10) features a brush holder (62), on which an optional, particularly two-pin, plug (80) is arranged for electric contacting, which projects from the at least one housing part (14, 18) in the area of the electronic interface (36), which housing part is designed to be sealed in the area of the electronic interface (36).

Claim 11 (previously presented):

Gear drive unit (10) according to Claim 19, characterized in that at the first sealing surface (50, 58) is arranged in such a way that it does not collide with the optional plug (80) that is formed on the brush holder and projects from the housing part (14, 18).

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (previously presented):

Plug-in module (34, 110) according to Claim 21, characterized by an electronic plug (84), whose plugging direction runs essentially radial to the armature shaft (16).

Claim 14 (previously presented):

Plug-in module (34, 82, 94) according to Claim 21, characterized by an electronic plug (84), whose plugging direction runs essentially axial to the armature shaft (16).

Claim 15 (previously presented):

Plug-in module (34, 110) according to Claim 21, characterized by a jacket-like housing (111), which can cooperate with the one seal (88) with the second sealing surface (48) of the gear drive unit (10) and can be sealed with another seal (114) vis-à-vis a cover (116) of the plug-in module (34, 110) that features a plug (84).

Claim 16 (previously presented):

Plug-in module (34, 82, 94, 110) according to Claim 21, characterized by a printed circuit board (32), on whose side facing the armature shaft (16) at least parts of a speed detection device (30), in particular a Hall sensor system (30), are arranged.

Claim 17-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended):

A gear drive unit (10) comprising an electric drive motor (12), which has an armature shaft (16), and at least one housing part (14, 18), which accommodates the armature shaft (16), and an electronic interface (36) for accommodating different plug-in modules (34, 82, 94, 110) which can be inserted into the electronic interface (36) in the insertion direction (55), and the electronic interface (36) having walls (38) which are spaced apart from one another, with at least one first surface (50) and guides (64) being arranged on the walls (38) along the insertion direction (55) in order to seal off different plug-in modules (34, 82, 94, 110) from the at least one housing part (14, 18), characterized in that the walls (38) are approximately rectangular and form an opening (42) perpendicular to and an opening (44) axial to the armature shaft (16), and the openings 42 and 44 are connected to one another and form a common opening with radial and axial opening directions, the opening substantially uninterrupted between the radial and axial opening directions, with the first surface (50) being formed by the inner surfaces (56) of the walls (38) in order to seal off the plug-in modules (34, 82, 94, 110) at least partially radially in relation to the insertion direction (55).

Claim 20 (previously presented):

The gear drive unit (10) as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that the two walls (38) form a housing (40) of the electronic interface (36), which housing can be sealed off by a plug-in module, and the internal volume of the housing (40) approximately constitutes a cuboid which can be used as an additional motor compartment.

Claim 21 (currently amended):

A plug-in module (34, 82, 94, 110) for insertion into an electronic interface (36) of a gear drive unit (10) comprising an electric drive motor (12), which has an armature shaft (16), and at least one housing part (14, 18), which accommodates the armature shaft (16), and an electronic interface (36) for accommodating different plug-in modules (34, 82, 94, 110) which can be introduced into the electronic interface (36) in the insertion direction (55), and the electronic interface (36) having walls (38) which are spaced apart from one another, with at least one first surface (50) and guides (64) being arranged on the walls (38) along the insertion direction (55) in order to seal off different plug-in modules (34, 82, 94, 110) from the at least one housing part (14, 18), wherein the walls (38) are approximately rectangular and form an opening (42) perpendicular to and an opening (44) axial to the armature shaft (16), and the openings 42 and 44 are connected to one another and form a common opening with radial and axial opening directions, including no hindrance between the radial and axial opening directions, with the first surface (50) being formed by the inner surfaces (56) of the walls (38) in order to seal off the plug-in modules (34, 82, 94, 110) at least partially radially in relation to the insertion direction (55), wherein the plug-in module (34, 82, 94, 110) has a printed circuit board (32), an electronic connector (84) and a radial seal (88, 60) which can interact with at least one surface (48, 50) of the gear drive unit (10) in such a way that at least one housing part (14, 18) of the gear drive unit (10) is closed off in a water-tight manner, and the plug-in module (34, 82, 94, 110) has two outer walls (96, 97) which are arranged at an angle to one another and can close off openings, which are connected to one another and have different opening directions (42, 44), in the electronic interface (36), and the two outer walls (96, 97) are additionally connected to one another by means of an L-shaped frame element (98) in such a way that both the printed circuit board (32) and also connections (100) of the electronic connector (84) are freely accessible in order to be mounted.

Claim 22 (previously presented):

The plug-in module (34, 82, 94, 110) as claimed in Claim 21, characterized in that the printed circuit board (32) can be mounted laterally, perpendicular in relation to the insertion direction, on the electronic connector (84) in a simple manner without obstruction and with the connections (100) making contact with the printed circuit board (32) by means of press-fit technology.

Claim 23 (previously presented):

The plug-in module (34, 82, 94, 110) as claimed in Claim 21, characterized in that current contacts (90) are arranged directly on the L-shaped frame element, said current contacts establishing a power supply to mating contacts of a brush holder (62) of the gear drive unit.

Claim 24 (previously presented):

A system for electrically adjusting movably arranged parts in a motor vehicle, in which system a gear drive unit (10) is combined with a plug-in module (34), the gear drive unit (10) comprising an electric drive motor (12), which has an armature shaft (16), and at least one housing part (14, 18), which accommodates the armature shaft (16), and an electronic interface (36) for accommodating different plug-in modules (34, 82, 94, 110) which can be introduced into the electronic interface (36) in the insertion direction (55), and the electronic interface (36) having walls (38) which are spaced apart from one another, with at least one first surface (50) and guides (54) being arranged on the walls (38) along the insertion direction (55) in order to seal off different plug-in modules (34, 82, 94, 110) from the at least one housing part (14, 18), characterized in that the walls (38) are approximately rectangular and form an opening (42) perpendicular to and an opening (44) axial to the armature shaft (16), and the openings 42 and 44 are connected to one another and form a common opening with radial and axial opening directions, the common opening extending substantially uninterrupted between the radial and axial opening directions, with the first surface (50) being formed by the inner surfaces (56) of the walls (38) in order to seal off the plug-in modules (34, 82, 94, 110) at least partially radially in relation to the insertion direction (55), wherein the plug-in module (34, 82, 94, 110) has a printed circuit board (32), an electronic connector (84) and a radial seal (88, 60) which can interact with at least one surface (48, 50) of the gear drive unit (10) in such a way that at least one housing part (14, 18) of the gear drive unit (10) is closed off in a water-tight manner, and the plug-in module (34, 82, 94, 110) has two outer walls (96, 97) which are arranged at an angle to one another and can close off openings, which are connected to one another and have different opening directions (42, 44), in the electronic interface (36), and the two outer walls (96, 97) are additionally connected to one another by means of an L-shaped frame element (98) in such a way that both the printed circuit board (32) and also connections (100) of the electronic connector (84) are freely accessible in order to be mounted.